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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

International Computing Centre: 1993 budget estimates

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The 1993 budget estimates of the International Computing Centre (ICC), Geneva, are summarized below for review and approval by the General Assembly in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Assembly in section III of its resolution 31/208 of 22 December 1976. In that resolution, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations, the budget of ICC should be subject to review and approval by the General Assembly. In the absence of such a review, the proposed budgets of ICC would not be subject to scrutiny by any intergovernmental organ.

2. ICC was established in 1971 to serve all those organizations of the United Nations system wishing to participate in its activities. The large variety of substantive work carried out by its participants means that ICC has to provide a comprehensive range of interactive data processing, text processing and related telecommunications services on a world-wide basis. The structure of the Centre is adjusted in response to participants' requirements, and its funding reflects the fact that not all participants make use of all the Centre's facilities all of the time. Users of ICC include the following participating organizations:

United Nations

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

World Food Programme (WFP)

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT (ITC)

World Bank

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Industrial Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

3. At its sixty-fifth session, held in September 1986, the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) proposed to the Management Committee of ICC to consider the possibility of a complete presentation of budget estimates in Swiss francs, the currency in which a large part of the expenditures of ICC are actually incurred, in order to facilitate a meaningful analysis of real growth in the services provided. Although the presentation by ICC of its 1993 budget estimates complies with that proposal, these estimates have, for their submission to the General Assembly, been converted to United States dollars at the rate of SwF 1.43 to the dollar, as reflected in the initial appropriation for the 1992-1993 programme budget of the United Nations. This has been done in order to relate the latter's share to the estimated 1992 total costs of ICC.

4. As shown in table 1 below the 1993 budget estimates, based on an exchange rate of SwF 1.43 to the dollar and an inflation assumption of 5.85 per cent in 1992 and 1993, amount to $13,789,700 as compared to a total of $13,053,600 in 1992, which was based on an exchange rate of SwF 1.40 to the dollar and an inflation assumption of 4.65 per cent. The presentation of the 1993 estimates has been revised to conform to the programme budget format of the United Nations. The 1992 approved estimates in Swiss francs have been revalued to take into account the revised inflation rate of 5.85 per cent assumed for 1992 as compared to the original assumption of 4.65 per cent used in the original estimates. In the case of the dollar estimates, in addition to the inflation adjustments, the revaluation also reflects an adjustment of exchange rate reflected in the 1992 approved estimates (1.40) to the rate of exchange (1.43) assumed in the initial appropriations for the 1992-1993 programme budget of the United Nations. The total revalued 1992 resource base in Swiss francs (SwF 18,484,556) and United States dollars ($12,926,262) represents the resource level required to finance the 1993 ICC budget at the maintenance level and to measure the rate of real growth. Based on ICC's projected inflation for 1992, the inflation rate for 1993 has also been assumed at 5.85 per cent whilst the rate of exchange of 1.43 Swiss francs to the United States dollar is based on the initial appropriations for the programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 1992-1993.

5. For the purpose of costing their probable usage of ICC services, the participating organizations are provided with the rates agreed to by the ICC Management Committee. Table 2 below shows details on the 1993 probable use of ICC services as provided by the participating organizations. For comparative purposes the actual funding for 1992 and the latest estimates of probable funding for 1991 are also shown in table 2. The budget level so estimated includes a residual income in the amount of SwF 350,000 designated as "Other funds". ICC indicates that the residual income would be received from non-participant organizations which use ICC facilities, for example, inter-agency bodies such as CCAQ and the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS), national Governments and intergovernmental bodies and also from those participants that exceed their stated usage.

6. It should be noted that several of these estimates have been received, and included, in provisional form, being subject in some cases to final review by governing bodies of the agencies concerned. The work of the participants ranges from well-articulated projects to tentative undertakings for which they are unable to give, at the present time, precise estimates of the resources required. If the pattern that has evolved in the past is repeated, then, as a participant's work programme becomes more specific during the year, it will revise its funding of the various activities.

7. The total estimates in respect of the share of the United Nations for the use of ICC (see table 2) in 1993 would, thus, amount to $2,924,300 at an exchange rate of 1.43 Swiss francs to the United States dollar. The amount actually required would be met from the resources ($5,608,200) included from the United Nations share of ICC under section 34, Special expenses, of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Table 1. Analysis of overall costs

	1992 approved budget	Revaluation of 1992 resource base a/		Total revalued 1992 resource base	Resource growth		Total requirements at revised 1992 rates	Inflation in 1993		1993 estimates
			%			%			%	
SwF	18 275 000	209 556	1.15	18 484 556	153 398	0.83	18 637 954	1 081 346	5.85	19 719 300
$US	13 053 600	(127 300)	(0.98)	12 926 300	107 200	0.83	13 033 500	756 200	5.85	13 789 700

a/ Additional requirements resulting from revised inflation rate (5.85 per cent instead of 4.65 per cent) and currency exchange (1.43 instead of 1.40) rates.

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Table 2. 1993 probable funding of ICC as estimated by participating organizations

Participating organization	Swiss francs			United States dollars	Percentage	
	Actual funding	Estimated funding				
	1991	1992	1993	1993 a/	1992	1993
United Nations	3 151 175	4 009 877	4 181 736	2 924 300	21.94	21.21
WHO	3 081 629	3 994 550	3 790 000	2 650 300	21.86	19.22
UNDP	69 547	65 360	76 000	53 100	0.36	0.38
UNICEF	116 280	99 653	115 000	80 400	0.55	0.58
ILO	351 606	274 500	388 683	271 800	1.50	1.97
WMO	67 888	69 000	75 000	52 400	0.38	0.38
UNRISD	5 807	4 590	10 364	7 200	0.03	0.05
UNEP	155 408	199 998	296 051	207 000	1.09	1.50
GATT	524 574	800 000	670 000	468 500	4.38	3.40
WIPO	1 149 942	1 795 706	2 350 738	1 643 900	9.83	11.92
UNESCO	52 540	57 000	70 592	49 400	0.31	0.36
ITC	517 108	419 566	623 000	435 800	2.30	3.16
UNHCR	2 658 955	3 344 876	3 929 201	2 747 800	18.30	19.93
WFP	1 628 750	2 264 800	2 285 000	1 597 900	12.39	11.59
World Bank	115 312	146 750	145 890	102 000	0.80	0.74
IFAD	161 907	366 416	303 000	211 900	2.00	1.54
UNIDO	4 424	29 000	5 226	3 700	0.16	0.03
IMF	1 798	3 665	3 000	2 100	0.02	0.01
FAO	11 614	15 000	50 674	35 400	0.08	0.26
IAEA	139	415	165	100	0.00	0.00
Participants	13 826 403	17 960 672	19 369 320	13 545 000	98.28	98.23
Other funds	2 741 028	314 278	350 000	244 800	1.72	1.77
Total	16 567 431	18 274 950	19 719 320	13 789 700	100.00	100.00

a/ Based on an exchange rate of SwF 1.43 to the dollar.

8. Upon receipt of the various estimates of probable usage by the participating organizations, ICC translates the projected demand for its services into the physical resources required to meet the demand and, by grouping expenditures on similar resources, ICC's budget by category of expenditure is then developed. Table 3 below shows the allocation of the 1993 budget estimates, by category of expenditure and, for comparative purposes, the equivalent budget approved for 1992.

9. It will be noted in table 3 that there is a 650 per cent increase in telecommunications charges with respect to 1992. This is due to the fact that following a recommendation by CCAQ (Financial and Budgetary Questions), telecommunications charges incurred on behalf of participating organizations have been added to this budget line. These charges were formerly handled outside the ICC budget. Thus, SwF 200,000 or $139,900 is required for ICC's internal communications expenses and the SwF 1,300,000 or $909,000 is to cover participants' requirements. This inclusion accounts for nearly all of the proposed budgetary increase.

10. Table 4 below contains the post requirements of the Centre for 1993, which remain at the level approved for 1992. The ICC activities are carried out, under the supervision of the Office of the Director, by the following services: a Systems Development Service; a Computer Operations Service; and an End-User Services Unit. The vacancy rate of Professional posts, compared to 1991, has increased from 25 per cent in 1991 (4 vacant posts out of 16) to 50 per cent in 1992 (8 Professional vacant posts out of 16). This vacancy rate includes the post of Director since March 1992. This high vacancy rate is covered by short-term staff who will be considered for fixed-term posts once a new Director has been appointed. The Management Committee is currently reviewing candidates for this post and expects to have a recommendation prepared for the Secretary-General before the end of 1992.

11. At its most recent session, held on 1 and 2 October 1992, the ICC Management Committee considered the possible biennialization of the ICC budget. It was agreed that such a procedure was feasible and that the Director of ICC should approach the CCAQ (Financial and Budgetary Questions) with a recommendation to move ICC to a biennial budget.

Table 3. Summary of budget estimates for 1992-1993 by object of expenditure

Category of expenditure	Approved estimates	Estimated requirements		Percentage of overall budget		Increase (decrease)
	1992	1993	1993	1992	1993	1993/1992
	(SwF)	(SwF)	(US$) a/	%	%	%
Salaries and related costs	4 400 000	4 550 000	3 181 800	24.08	23.07	3.4
Contractual services	150 000	300 000	209 800	0.82	1.52	100.0
Duty travel	15 000	15 000	10 500	0.08	0.08	-
Supplies						
Software	1 950 000	1 900 000	1 328 700	10.67	9.64	(2.6)
Database	260 000	300 000	209 800	1.42	1.52	15.4
Supplies (computer and office)	290 000	315 000	220 300	1.59	1.60	8.6
Equipment						
Equipment - rentals	8 590 000	8 194 320	5 730 300	47.00	41.55	(4.9)
Equipment - purchases	680 000	600 000	419 600	3.72	3.04	(11.8)
Technical literature	25 000	85 000	59 400	0.14	0.43	240.0
Common service costs:						
Accommodation and related costs	1 650 000	1 900 000	1 328 700	9.03	9.64	15.2
Telecommunications:						
Telephone, facsimile, telex and telegrams	200 000	1 500 000	1 048 900	1.09	7.61	650.0
Miscellaneous expenses	65 000	60 000	41 900	0.36	0.30	(7.7)
Total	18 275 000	19 719 320	13 789 700	100.00	100.00	7.9

a/ Based on an exchange rate of SwF 1.43 to the dollar.

Table 4. Post requirements for 1993

Professional category and above:	
D-2	1
D-1	-
P-5	2
P-4	4
P-3	3
P-2	6
Total	16
General Service category:	
G-7	1
G-6	3
G-5	-
G-4	4
G-3	7
G-2	3
Total	18
Grand total	34

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UNITED NATIONS COMMON SYSTEM

UNITED NATIONS PENSION SYSTEM

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith, for consideration by the General Assembly, a statement adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) at its second regular session of 1992.

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Annex

STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) decided to adopt the following statement for submission to the General Assembly:

"The organizations which make up the United Nations common system are responsible for increasingly diverse and complex programmes. New demands are being placed on them continuously by the international community, whether it be for peace-keeping, for development assistance, for meeting the needs of uprooted populations, or for the provision of technical advice. The pace and the extent of these demands are straining the human and financial resources of the organizations to the limit.

"Furthermore, in many instances the staff are required to carry out their duties in conditions which pose a real threat to their security. Lives have been lost.

"In these circumstances it is of paramount importance that the conditions of service of United Nations common system staff be competitive. This means improving conditions where they are shown to be deficient, and it means not reducing conditions which have given proof of their viability over the years.

"The conditions of the Professional and higher categories of staff are not competitive. Those of the General Service category staff are. The solution lies not in reducing the conditions of staff in the General Service category, but in enhancing the conditions of their Professional and higher category colleagues. ACC welcomes the improvements proposed by the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) to the General Assembly this year on education grant, base/floor salary scale, mobility and hardship allowances and dependency allowances. But much more needs to be done.

"ACC has made several specific proposals in the last few years. a/ These initiatives have borne little fruit. In addition, staff organizations, which with ACC are partners in the consultative arrangements provided for in the statute of the Commission, have withdrawn from those arrangements until further notice. The consultative process is undermined.

"ACC believes that action is needed now. Lack of concerted and timely action will continue to provoke individual attempts to remedy what are seen as the most glaring deficiencies, with the attendant risks to the cohesion of the common system. The organizations are anxious that the common system should move forward as one on these vital questions.

"Accordingly, ACC requests the General Assembly:

"(a) To endorse the recommendations of ICSC with regard to the base/floor salary scale, mobility and hardship allowances, education grant and dependency allowances;

"(b) To invite ICSC to pursue its examination of the competitiveness of the common system and, in particular, that of staff in the Professional and higher categories, by considering as a matter of urgency and for consideration by the General Assembly in 1993 an updated application of the Noblemaire principle so that all relevant features of the highest-paid civil service are taken into account, as well as remuneration levels offered by other international employers, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which are known to be more competitive than the common system;

"(c) To note the concern of ACC that in considering the salary and pension methodologies for the General Service category, any modifications should be technically sound and should not result in an erosion of current conditions. ACC urges that the recommendations of ICSC pertaining to the methodology for determining pensionable remuneration be deferred until the results of using the new recommended salary survey methodology are known;

"(d) To consider positively at the current session the recommendations of ICSC already before the Assembly calling for an increase of between 7 and 11 per cent in the remuneration at the ASG and USG levels, as well as the recommendations of ACC to the Commission concerning increases of 3 and 5 per cent at the levels of D-1 and D-2 respectively."

Notes

a/ A/C.5/45/43, note by the Secretary-General; A/C.5/46/31, note by the Secretary-General; ACC decision 1989/21; ACC decision 1991/4; ACC decision 1992/3; ICSC/36/R.8, document prepared in accordance with ACC decision 1992/3.

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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

Administrative arrangements for the secretariat of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation

Report of the Secretary-General

Background

1. In section XI, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 46/185 C of 20 December 1991, the Secretary-General was requested "to study the possibility of alternative arrangements for the secretariat of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, including its possible merger with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session". The present report summarizes the Secretary-General's views and recommendation.

2. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) was established by General Assembly resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955 in recognition of the widespread concern of countries about the hazards of radioactive fallout disseminating from testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, and of the need to collect and evaluate information on the effects of ionizing radiation on man and his environment. UNSCEAR is composed of the following 21 Member States:

Argentina	Indonesia
Australia	Japan
Belgium	Mexico
Brazil	Peru
Canada	Poland
China	Russian Federation
Czechoslovakia	Sudan
Egypt	Sweden
France	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Germany	
India	United States of America

3. UNSCEAR's main mandate is to review published reports and technical documents submitted by States Members of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the sources and effects of ionizing radiation. It evaluates the global exposures of man and assesses the inherent risks of harmful effects. The sources of exposure include the natural radiation background and man-made activities and practices, including nuclear-weapons testing, isotope production and usage, nuclear power production, medical uses of radiation, occupational radiation exposures and accidents. The biological effects of radiation include acute tissue damage from high doses of radiation and late somatic and genetic changes (cancer and heritable defects). The risks of effects are assessed from the findings of radiobiological research and epidemiological studies of radiation-exposed population groups.

4. UNSCEAR is served by a small secretariat, currently consisting of one Professional and two General Service staff members; a second Professional post has not been filled since 1980. Documents for review by UNSCEAR are prepared mainly through consultants who are experts/scientists. This system has allowed versatile selection of expertise and minimum use of financial resources.

5. The secretariat was originally located at Headquarters, in New York. Responsibility for administrative arrangements rested with the Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs. Pursuant to a decision taken by the General Assembly on 18 December 1973, the secretariat of UNSCEAR was transferred to Vienna, with effect from 1 January 1974.

6. The initial reason for the transfer to a European headquarters location was to establish links with the newly established secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which was to have a regional office at Geneva, and to assist in establishing environmental monitoring and assessment activities within UNEP by making available UNSCEAR experience. Instead of transferring the Secretariat to Geneva, however, the General Assembly accepted the offer of accommodation made by the Government of Austria. The move to Vienna occurred in September 1974. The offices of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) at Vienna were instrumental in making the necessary arrangements for the transfer and in providing necessary administrative support.

7. In 1976, the secretariat of UNSCEAR was attached to UNEP. This was intended to remove UNSCEAR from the responsibility of the Office of the Under-Secretaries-General for Special Political Affairs and to further cooperation between UNSCEAR and UNEP. The effective date of transfer was 1 September 1976.

8. In accordance with an agreement between the Executive Directors of UNIDO and UNEP, administrative support services for the secretariat were to be provided by UNIDO at Vienna. With the establishment of the United Nations Office at Vienna in 1979, administrative services for UNSCEAR were assumed by the United Nations administrative services at Vienna.

Possible alternative arrangements

9. The proposal for a possible merger of UNSCEAR secretariat with IAEA, as contained in section XI, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 46/185 C, may have been prompted by the fact that both bodies are based at Vienna and that they are concerned with atomic radiation. However, the proposal must be examined in the light of the differing mandates and approaches, as well as the constitutional structures of the two bodies and the benefits to be derived, as the overall objective of the proposal is the enhancement of effectiveness and efficiency.

10. IAEA is an independent intergovernmental organization. The functions of IAEA are defined in its statute. The relationship between IAEA and the United Nations is governed by the statute of IAEA and the Agreement Governing the Relationship between the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 1145 (XII) of 14 November 1957.

11. The view of IAEA has been expressed by its Director-General as follows: "UNSCEAR's mandate involves the scientific review and evaluation of the levels and effects of ionizing radiation and is quite distinct from that of the Agency; we believe that to maintain their effectiveness the two organizations should remain separate." 1/

12. At its forty-first session, held at Vienna from 15 to 19 June 1992, UNSCEAR also addressed the issue, and expressed the following view in paragraph 2 of its report to the General Assembly: 2/ "The Committee concluded that alternative arrangements for its secretariat suggested in General Assembly resolution 46/185 C of 20 December 1991 might well prejudice the perception of both its authority and its independence".

13. The position of UNEP in this matter also confirms the view of UNSCEAR and that of IAEA.

14. In the light of the above, the Secretary-General is of the view that, because of differing mandates, a merger of the UNSCEAR secretariat with IAEA could compromise seriously the independent standing of UNSCEAR. The

Secretary-General therefore recommends that the present organizational location and administrative support arrangements for the UNSCEAR secretariat be maintained.

Notes

1/ IAEA Board of Governors, 24 February 1992, GOV/OR.773, para. 43.

2/ A/47/293.